

DAVE ON DAVE: PART 2

Before I say anything, I want to make a great big apology. You see, to make David's visit to Britain possible, I had to tell quite a few fibs. But believe me, the visit would have been impossible if it hadn't been kept a secret.

Although I know that all the fans who rang up Bell's office and all those who waited at the airport were upset, I also knew that they would rather have David appear on "Top Of The Pops" than not appear at all! And those were the rules that the British Airport Authority made: absolute secrecy.

RULES

They were worried about damage to the airport, so if anything was to be done, we had to agree to their rules. So, once again, let me apologise to all the fans who were told that David wouldn't be able to make it."

This was the first thing Dave Bridger told me as I began to talk to him. He had asked to speak to me, to give the complete story about David's flying visit last month. After I assured him that all true Cassidy fans would forgive him, especially after seeing David's super performance on "Top of the Pops", he went on with the story.

"The idea all began a few months ago. My boss at

Bell records was having dinner with the director of "Top Of The Pops". They were discussing the 500th broadcast of the show, and it was casually mentioned by the director that it would really be a gas if David could make an appearance on "Top Of The Pops".

"So that's how it all started. We knew from the very beginning that there would be tremendous difficulties. Unions, the Home Office, The British Airport Authority, all these groups would have to be consulted.

"And that was only the beginning!!

500th SHOW

"We would have to make arrangements with airlines, hotels, car hire firms, restaurants, all sorts of places would have to be duly notified. Still, we knew it would be worth it, to have David on the 500th show.

"Originally we wanted to try and avoid the whole mess of permits, so we thought that if David landed but didn't go through customs, he wouldn't have *officially* landed in the country.

"But when we rang up to find out, the word got out to the national press, so we did have to start the whole procedure after all. Not only that," Dave continued, "but once the story appeared loads of fans also appeared — at the airport!

"If there's one thing that all David's fans have in common, its cleverness! It only took them about two

ticks to suss out that David would be coming into Heathrow. So every time a flight would arrive from L.A., a mob of fans would surround the airport arrival terminal.

"As soon as I saw this, I knew that it would be impossible to meet the British Airport Authority's strict instructions. And if that was impossible, then so was David's visit.

"It was immediately arranged for David to fly to New York first, and then change to a Pan Am flight to London. The flight arrived late at night, and Tony Blackburn and I were there to meet the plane.

"Meanwhile, a B.B.C. camera crew from Manchester had arrived to film the performance, along with a full backing orchestra supplied by the Musicians' Union. And of course, the Airport Authority had graciously allowed us to close off part of the runway in order to film the plane's arrival."

KEEPING QUIET

I had done a good job so far in keeping quiet, but now I just had to ask something that was beginning to bother me. "But Dave, with all those people involved, how did you manage to keep it so quiet?"

Dave smiled at me. "Well, it wasn't easy! We had to tell a few more fibs!! We told the camera crew that they were to film the arrival of some members of the Royal Family!!

